

What's in this Issue

Articles.....	Page 1
Accreditation .....	Page 5
Preparedness.....	Page 5
Funding Opportunities.....	Page 6
Training and Conference Announcements.....	Page 8
News & Resources.....	Page 10
Job Postings.....	Page 10

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment Awarded National Accreditation  
Through the Public Health Accreditation Board**

*by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) announced today that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments. KDHE is one of fewer than 200 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. However, hundreds of health departments across the country are preparing to seek accreditation through PHAB, the non-profit organization that administers the national public health accreditation program.

"We are pleased and excited to be recognized for achieving these national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement," said KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer Susan Mosier, MD, MBA, FACS. "The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. With accreditation, KDHE is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to the public, elected officials and the many partner organizations with which we work."

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.



"This accreditation represents that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health," Dr. Mosier said. "By continuing to improve our services and performance, we can be sure we are meeting the public health needs of those we serve as effectively as possible."

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

"KDHE joins the growing ranks of accredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission," said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. "The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities. Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community."

The national accreditation program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by hundreds of public health practitioners working at the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Since the program's launch in September 2011, hundreds of public health departments have applied to PHAB for accreditation, and hundreds of public health practitioners from across the nation have been trained to serve as volunteer peer site visitors for the program.

"Achieving accreditation indicates that KDHE is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the community by striving to continuously improve the quality of the services it delivers," said Ray (Bud) Nicola, MD, MHSA, chair of PHAB's Board of Directors and affiliate professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle. "Accreditation also promotes consistency in meeting standards. With an ever-increasing number of health departments now applying for and becoming accredited, you will be able to expect to receive the same quality of public health services wherever you go in the United States."

## KDHE Sponsors Public Health Thank You Webinar Series



*by the Local Public Health Program,  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

The Local Public Health Program (LPH), Kansas Department of Health and Environment is sponsoring a Public Health Thank You Series of webinars in appreciation of the work that you do for Kansas. The first webinar was held on Monday, November 20. A webinar will be held each month leading up to National Public Health Week, April 2018. Continuing nursing education credit is being available.

The 2018 Governor's Public Health Conference will be promoted during each webinar and as part of the promotion of the webinars, one free registration to the 2018 conference will be given to a randomly selected webinar participant. Registration for the webinars and login information will be through KansasTRAIN at <http://www.train.org/ks/>. The webinars will be presented and recorded via Go To Webinar.

- **Addressing Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders in a Public Health Setting, Course ID# 1073771**, Friday, December 15, 10 - 11:00 a.m.  
Melissa Hoffman, RN, MMH, Community Education Specialist, Lawrence Memorial Hospital will provide an overview of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders including strategies for identifying symptoms in a public health setting. Ms. Hoffman will also present current best practices for screening for these disorders in a public health setting as well as discussing the role of public health in addressing these disorders. At the conclusion of the webinar learners will be able to: list symptoms of perinatal mood disorders; list symptoms of perinatal anxiety disorder; and name recommended screening tools for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.
- **Developmental Screening in a Public Health Setting, Course ID# 1073773**, Friday, January 12, 2018, 1 - 2:00 p.m.  
Katrina Lowry, MA, Building Blocks Grant Director, Russell Child Development Center, will lead this webinar on developmental screening. Do you wonder which tool to use for screening children at your organization? Do you know the benefits of screening in a public health setting? This webinar will share practical strategies for implementing developmental screening at your health department. At the conclusion of the webinar, learners will be able to: identify two benefits of conducting developmental screening; and name two strategies for implementing developmental screening.
- **Understanding the Mental Health System in Kansas, Course ID# 1073793**, Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 12 - 1:00 p.m.  
Jonathan Hamdorf, MBA, Director of Policy, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Kari Bruffett, Policy Director, Kansas Health Institute will present on how mental health is becoming an increasing focus in communities across the state. It is important for public health professionals to understand the mental health system to be able to address community needs. A report has been developed and will be shared as a resource to participants. At the conclusion of this presentation, learners will be able to: describe two ways mental health issues impact Kansas communities; identify key stakeholders in the mental health system; and recognize potential partnerships between public health and mental health.
- **Telehealth: A Resource for Public Health, Course ID# 1073796**, Thursday, March 8, 2018, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Janine Gracy, MA, Heartland Telehealth Resource Center, University of Kansas Medical Center will discuss explore untapped opportunities to utilize telehealth, including behavioral health, in public health settings along with best practices for using telehealth. At the conclusion of the webinar, learners will be able: describe benefits of using telehealth in a public health setting; and recognize strategies for addressing behavioral health through telehealth.

## 2015 Annual Summary Adopts New Format

*by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



The Annual Summary of Vital Statistics report for 2016 debuted a new format. The report, with 84 tables and over 40 charts and maps is now an electronic document. The release accompanied a new approach to internet access of statistics and reports prepared by the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics' Vital and Health Statistics Data Analysis Section. Fifteen various pages with reports and listings have been consolidated to just two. One of those is a new landing page, <http://www.kdheks.gov/phi/index.htm>. From this page visitors can navigate to all publications and tables prepared by the section. It should be more intuitive to use and improvements will continue. Online publication of the Annual Summary will enable the section to post completed tables and charts online sooner, for policy use. For persons who might still want to download a full set of pages of the report, they have been compiled into a single PDF document. It is available at: [http://www.kdheks.gov/phi/as/2016/Annual\\_Summary\\_2016.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/phi/as/2016/Annual_Summary_2016.pdf).

## Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The next webinar will be January 23. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

## Six Kansan Community Stars Recognized For National Rural Health Day

*by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health*

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) recognized 26 Community Stars for National Rural Health Day. Eight of those recognized are from Kansas: Debbie Bruner, Jodi Cregger, Misty Jimerson, Angela Murray, Michael and Beth Oller, Brenda Pfizenmaier, Sherry Sandlin, and Don Ziegler.



Debbie Bruner, Chief Executive Officer, Minneola District Hospital, was recognized for her leadership and vision. To address the community's ongoing and growing behavioral health shortage, Debbie put her collaboration skills into high gear, engaging the Iroquois Center for Human Development, the local community mental health center, and Ashland Health Center, a Critical Access Hospital and Rural Health Clinic located 30 miles from Minneola. Debbie and her collaborators pursued and received a grant to achieve their mission of integrating a comprehensive behavioral health program into existing primary care practices. Debbie also applied for an additional grant to support the work. Combined funding and community backing secured through Debbie's efforts made it possible to introduce outpatient mental health services, group therapy in the long-term care facility, and crisis counseling in time to support those devastated by wildfires that ravished the area in March of 2017.

Jodi Cregger, Education Manager, Flight Nurse Paramedic, LifeTeam, was recognized for her unparalleled dedication to patient care and for her many contributions that make a huge difference in the lives of those who may never know her name. She coordinates and facilitates hundreds of training and certification classes each year, including LifeTeam's flight academy, a boot-camp type flight school for nurses and paramedics. In addition to her educator's role, Jodi is a 14 year veteran flight nurse paramedic. In recognition of her extraordinary efforts to promote education, professional development, and dedication to patient care, Jodi was named the 2017 Distinguished Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse.



Misty Jimerson, Health Educator, Thomas County Health Department, was nominated for her steadfast commitment to drive better health outcomes for rural Kansans. While her title is Health Educator, her primary role is as Grants Manager, overseeing a substantial grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment focused on chronic disease risk reduction. Misty immersed herself in local city governments and reached out to schools and other organizations to help her understand where the greatest needs were so that she could identify the most promising opportunities. Aside from her official duties with the office, she is an active member of the Food Policy Council that covers several counties in Northwest Kansas, a dedicated volunteer serving the Prairie Museum of Art and History, the Senior Farmers Market, the Colby After School Program, and the Thomas County Extension. Misty was instrumental in establishing Wellness Committees for Thomas County and the City of Colby.

Angela Murray, Administrator and Registered Nurse, Jewell County Health Department, was selected as a 2017 Community Star in recognition for her dedication to making her community a healthier place to live, including organizing a community garden. Angela is a champion for her community who recognizes, "We may be small, but we are mighty!" She manages staff and provides direct patient care. She administers vaccines, performs nail care, home and office visits, WIC, and school nurse visits, conducts vision and hearing exams, and teaches several educational programs for public benefit. She is also the health department's preparedness coordinator, and responsible for seeking and securing grants for needed funding. Angela also teaches CPR, assists the County Emergency manager with preparedness, and works as a paramedic with the county EMS and hospital whenever needed. Angela's work and passion is a clear example of why Jewell County is mighty despite its size.



Drs. Michael and Beth Oller, Post Rock Family Medicine, are a dynamic duo that understand that the rural healthcare provider shortage is not a thing of the past. They serve as mentors for the next class of physicians. Dr. Beth Oller goes above and beyond for her patients, meeting them both in the clinic or in the community. As one of the only doctors in the area to deliver babies, she has introduced a doula into her practice. Dr. Michael Oller has been instrumental in helping his clinic embrace advanced technology. When he is not with patients, he serves on both the hospital and school boards.

Brenda Pfizenmaier, Director of Nutrition, Diabetes, Wellness and Public Relations, Ransom Memorial Hospital (RMH), was recognized for her deep commitment to her community and the wide array of work she does for RMH. When pursuing a career, Brenda was inspired to make a real difference in the lives of those in need of support to help improve their self-esteem. Brenda's positivity, professionalism and upbeat attitude set an example for excellence in care and service at RMH.

Sherry Sandlin, Immunization Nurse, The Family Physicians, was recognized for her dedication to educating patients, staff, and the community about the necessity and benefits of immunization. During Sherry's first flu season at the practice, her efforts increased flu vaccinations given by 542 patients. She works hard to demystify the rumors and set the record straight regarding immunizations. She is a member of the Rural Immunization Task Force serving Iola and surrounding communities. She also championed the Web-IZ program within her clinic.



Don Ziegler, Emergency Medical Responder, Kingman EMS, was nominated because of his dedication to community service. When Don hears that a senior in the community needs safety grab bars in their home, he grabs his toolbox and makes it happen. He is an exceptional example of what's right in rural health. The role of emergency medical responders in rural communities is that of a lifeline. Don "always finds a way to make himself available for standby when an ambulance would have to be shut down."

Congratulations to the Community Stars of Kansas! Thank you for your contributions to the health of all Kansans!



## Regional Public Health Meetings

by Teri Caudle, RN, PHN, Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



The Regional Public Health Meetings are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities.

The fourth quarter of 2017 regional public health meetings will offer a variety of useful information. Come with your thinking cap on and ready to discuss difficult nuisance situations that you have encountered. The agenda includes the following: the KDHE District Office Administrators will lead a discussion on nuisance complaint investigations and other environmental health topics; and Phil Griffin, KDHE Immunization Program Section Chief, will share updates, policies, and plans from the Immunization Program. Registration for the fourth quarter is available on KS-TRAIN, Course ID#1072956.

The dates and locations for the fourth quarter meetings are:

- North Central Region, Beloit, December 6
- Northeast Region, Topeka, December 12

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics or questions regarding the meetings, please contact Teri Caudle at [teri.caudle@ks.gov](mailto:teri.caudle@ks.gov).

## Save the Date - 2018 Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium - May 10 - 11, 2018

by the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment



Plans are underway for the 2018 Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium to be held on May 10 - 11, 2018, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Kansas City/Olathe Hotel & Conference Center in Olathe.

Nearly 300 public health leaders, first responders, law enforcement and health care providers from around the region are expected to attend and learn how infectious diseases are contained and managed in the state of Kansas and the Midwest. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will offer a pre-conference surveillance training on May 9.

If you are interested in exhibiting or being a sponsor at next year's conference, contact Tiffany Wallin at 913-826-1252 or send an e-mail to [Tiffany.Wallin@jocogov.org](mailto:Tiffany.Wallin@jocogov.org). Registration for this event will begin in early 2018 on KansasTRAIN.

## Reducing Syphilis Rates: A Healthcare Provider's Role

by the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE's) Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention is alerting Kansas providers to the ongoing increase in syphilis cases. Kansas had 300 cases of early syphilis reported, (124 cases of primary and secondary syphilis, and 176 cases of early latent syphilis) during calendar year 2016. This is a 52% increase from CY2014. Please visit the STI/HIV website at [http://www.kdheks.gov/sti\\_hiv/index.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/sti_hiv/index.htm) for a short video from CDC outlining three key actions healthcare providers can take to help reverse rising syphilis rates.

As a reminder, please report all positive tests, diagnoses (including suspect and probable diagnoses), and treatment for syphilis to KDHE. The current CDC treatment guidelines for syphilis can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the STI/HIV Section of KDHE at 785-296-6174.

## 2016 Adolescent and Teen Pregnancy Report and 2016 Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Reports Available

by the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE



The Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics has also posted online the 2016 Adolescent and Teen Pregnancy Report and the 2016 Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization report. Both can be found at [online](#).

National Public Health Thank You Webinar Series:

# Addressing Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders in a Public Health Setting

DECEMBER 15  
10 - 11 A.M.

**PRESENTER:**  
MELISSA HOFFMAN, RN, MMH  
LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

REGISTER ON KS-TRAIN  
COURSE ID# 1073771

FREE CONTINUING  
EDUCATION UNITS

## Accreditation Corner

### NACCHO's 2017 Forces of Change Survey Results Available



The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) is excited to announce the release of the 2017 Forces of Change report, *The Changing Public Health Landscape*, containing new findings on the forces that are affecting the nation's local health departments (LHDs).

Results show that although the economic situation is slowly improving for many LHDs, one in five still reported a lower budget in 2017 than in 2016. LHDs are also faced with diverse challenges related to workforce recruitment, including barriers to providing a competitive salary to qualified candidates. Some LHDs are adapting to the changing public health environment by exploring new opportunities for collaboration with community partners. For example, many LHDs reported partnering with the healthcare and education sectors to address issues including opioid and tobacco use. An additional factor influencing LHD operation is the emergence of infectious diseases in the United States, such as Zika virus, which compels a further focus on prevention and response activities to ensure prepared and resilient communities.

Visit [www.nacchoprofilestudy.org/forces-of-change](http://www.nacchoprofilestudy.org/forces-of-change) to view the report and learn more.

### NACCHO Webinar on Reaccreditation - December 12



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will be hosting a webinar featuring information on reaccreditation on December 12, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

NACCHO's Performance Improvement team has invited Lyndsie Schwarz (Marion County Health Department, Salem, OR) and Julie Thompson (Mahoning County District board of Health, Youngstown, OH) to discuss their agencies' approach to preparing for reaccreditation. Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) staff will also join the discussion and be available to answer questions. Register for the webinar [online](#).

## Preparedness Corner

### Webinar - Building Response-Ready State and Local Health Departments Across the Nation - December 7



The Region IV Public Health Training Center is hosting a webinar on December 7, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The webinar will discuss an overview of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of State and Local Readiness and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program, including public health preparedness capabilities, state and local operational readiness, public health emergency preparedness resources and the role of public health in emergency response. Additional information and the registration link can be found [online](#).

### NACCHO's Roadmap to Ready - A Training and Mentoring Program for New Preparedness Coordinators



Roadmap to Ready is a yearlong training and mentoring program that helps new emergency preparedness coordinators navigate the complex landscape of public health preparedness. The program provides participants with the knowledge, skills, connections, and resources they need to successfully lead and coordinate public health emergency preparedness planning and response activities in their local jurisdictions. Learn more [online](#).

### Don't Forget to Check Out the Ready Reader

#### READY READER

The Ready Reader is developed by a taskforce representing emergency preparedness professionals, regulators, and advocacy associations from Kansas concerned with promoting compliance with the new CMS Emergency Preparedness conditions. The newsletters are available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/providers.htm> and new issues become available on Tuesdays. To receive the newsletter directly when it is released, send an email with your email address to Michael McNulty at [mike.mculty@ks.gov](mailto:mike.mculty@ks.gov).

### Training Course: Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), revamped their [Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response](#) (EHTER) course. EHTER helps prepare environmental health professionals and other emergency response personnel by providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to address the environmental health impacts of emergencies and disasters. Two different trainings are offered: [EHTER Awareness Level](#) and [EHTER Operations Level](#).

EHTER Awareness Level is an online course that addresses the role of environmental health responders in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters, including issues and challenges in disaster management, responder safety and health, safe water, food safety, wastewater, building assessments, vectors and pests, and more.

[EHTER Operations Level](#) is an in person course that trains participants to identify problems, hazards and risks; plan for team response; select appropriate equipment; perform required tasks using environmental health response protocols; and report and participate in follow-up activities as needed. Most of the course involves hands-on operation practice and response to simulated events. This in-person course is available through a partnership with FEMA. FEMA covers all training costs. [Learn more](#) about the trainings and how to sign up to participate.

## Funding Opportunities

### Kansas Department of Health and Environment Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program Request for Proposals: Primary Prevention Needs Assessment - Deadline December 15



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program (KDHE SVPE) has posted a request for proposals (RFP) to fund community-based agencies to use their current community-based coalition to implement a community needs assessment focusing on shared risk and protective factors for the prevention of sexual violence using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Connecting the Dots](#) publication as a resource in the development of the needs assessment. Two grants of up to \$50,000 each will be awarded.

All applications must be received by December 15, 5 p.m. The application, budget summary form, and funding announcement are all available [online](#). Questions about the application process can be directed to Laurie Hart at 785-296-8476 or [Laurie.Hart@ks.gov](mailto:Laurie.Hart@ks.gov).

### NACCHO Disability Technical Assistance Program - Deadline December 29



The National Association of County & City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Health and Disability Program is currently [accepting applications](#) through December 29 for its Disability Technical Assistance Program. This initiative is designed to support local health departments seeking to increase inclusivity and accessibility for people with disabilities in their programs, products, and services. Through this program, NACCHO staff provides assistance on a variety of topics related to health department activities including emergency preparedness planning and health promotion programming.

To participate, local health department staff need to complete a [brief application](#) indicating the type of technical assistance they are interested in receiving. Upon receipt of each application, NACCHO will set up an initial consultation call, to further discuss the application and any additional health department related needs. After assessing each agency's goals, NACCHO and health department staff will work collaboratively to identify action-items and appropriate tools and resources addressing the health department's individual needs.

In addition to receiving direct NACCHO staff support, tools and resources, each program participant is provided with a summary report of NACCHO's findings and recommendations. Technical assistance recipients are also asked to complete a post-assessment to provide feedback on their experience.

Finally, NACCHO offers several national recognition opportunities for local health department participants in this program, such as being highlighted in dedicated feature blogs, and receiving opportunities to speak at NACCHO sponsored events. Interested local health departments are strongly encouraged to submit an [application for technical assistance](#) by December 29.

Applications take only up to 10 minutes to complete and are reviewed on a rolling basis. All candidates submitting an application within the above deadline will be contacted within three weeks to arrange an initial consultation call. [Click here to begin an application today!](#)

Please contact Sara Lyons, NACCHO Program Analyst for Health and Disability, with any additional questions or inquiries at [slyons@naccho.org](mailto:slyons@naccho.org). For more information on NACCHO's Health and Disability program, [click here to visit the dedicated webpage](#) via the NACCHO website.

**JANUARY 12, 1 - 2 P.M.**

**WEBINAR**

**Developmental Screening in a Public Health Setting**

**FREE Continuing Education Units for attendees**

Register on KS-TRAIN, Course ID# 1073773







### Host a National Environmental Public Health Intern - Deadline January 3

The National Environmental Health Association has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Environmental Health Services Branch to fund the National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEHIP) to support over 35 environmental health student internships during summer 2018.

Selected college students from environmental health programs accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC) will receive a stipend of \$4,000 to complete the 10-week internship. Students temporarily relocating for the internship may be eligible to receive an additional stipend to cover relocation expenses.

Local, state and tribal health departments interested in hosting an environmental health student intern are asked to complete this application form and meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The site must provide opportunities for student interns to experience multiple environmental health programs/activities throughout the internship. Examples of programmatic areas include food safety, onsite water and wastewater programs, vector control, institutional environmental health, laboratory process. Short-term work and experiences with other governmental health agencies is also encouraged.
- The site must have the ability to assist the student in identifying and completing an independent project that focuses on solving a current or project environmental health problem or challenge facing the host health department. This project may be used by the intern to meet university internship requirements.
- The site must assign a mentor to the intern. This person should be available to assist in mentoring and advising the student intern on a daily basis throughout the internship period.

Additional information about the application requirements, including the [application](#) and the [2018 Program Guidelines](#) are [available online](#). Applications must be submitted by January 3, 2018.

### CDC's Public Health Associate Program Application Period Open January 2 - 8



**PHAP**  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The [Public Health Associate Program \(PHAP\)](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is accepting applications January 2 - 18, 2018 to host a public health associate starting in October 2018. PHAP is a two-year training program with the mission to train and provide experiential learning to early-career public health professionals.

CDC has developed a two-part technical assistance webinar series for potential host organizations to learn more about PHAP and applying to host an associate.

- [PHAP 101: Overview of PHAP - Does My Site Want to Host an Associate?](#)
- [PHAP 201: Strategic Development of a Quality PHAP Training Experience - the CO-STARR Model](#)

Questions about PHAP can be e-mailed to [phap@cdc.gov](mailto:phap@cdc.gov). Those interested in applying are encouraged to start the application early.

# SAVE THE DATE

## KANSAS GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

# APRIL 3-5, 2018

MARRIOTT  
9100 E. CORPORATE HILLS DR.  
WICHITA, KS

**Kansas**  
Department of Health  
and Environment

**KALHD**  
KANSAS ASSOCIATION  
OF LOCAL  
HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

**KANSAS  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

QUESTIONS? CALL (316) 978.6493

OR VISIT [WWW.WICHITA.EDU/CONFERENCES/PUBLICHEALTH](http://WWW.WICHITA.EDU/CONFERENCES/PUBLICHEALTH)

## Training and Conference Announcements

### Chronic Disease Alliance of Kansas Semi-Annual Meeting - December 7



The Chronic Disease Alliance of Kansas (CDAK) has opened registration for their semi-annual meeting on December 7, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Kansas Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. The keynote presentation will include a presentation from Dr. Robert Badgett on "Using Quality Improvement to Make Doctors Happier and Patients Healthier". Additional information about the event, including committee breakout panel sessions, is available on the [website](#). Register for the event [online](#).

### Webinar - Educating Policymakers About Public Health Issues - December 11



Region IV Public Health Training Center will host a webinar on December 11, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The webinar will provide participants insights, tips and pointers to more effectively educate elected officials, including state legislators and members of Congress. The webinar will address preparation, presentation, and "leave behind" materials. An experienced governmental affairs consultant who advocates for public health priorities will cover essential "Do's and Don'ts" for educating officials about public health issues. Additional information and a registration link is available [online](#).

### Webinar - Acknowledging Stress in Communities Affected by Environmental Contamination - December 13



Environmental contamination can disrupt normal life and cause stress. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has released a new [fact sheet](#) that suggests steps people can take to cope and will host a webinar to explain how to public health professionals can use the fact sheet in community settings. The webinar will be held on December 13, 1 - 2 p.m. Please use both the web [link](#) and the telephone audio line to participate in the webinar. Audio-line dial in: (855) 348-8390 | Participant code: 2398272.

### Webinar - Policies & Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Exposure - December 13



Dialogue4Health will be hosting a webinar on December 13, 1:30 -3 p.m. on policies and efforts to prevent and respond to childhood lead exposure. The lead contamination crises in Flint, Michigan and East Chicago, Indiana have shone a national spotlight on the problem of childhood lead exposure, and for years, research has demonstrated that lead adversely affects children and creates significant costs for individuals and taxpayers. Please join the National Center for Healthy Housing, Trust for America's Health, and the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, for a Dialogue4Health Web Forum on a new report, 10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Exposure, which found that billions in public spending could be saved by preventing and mitigating the effects of lead poisoning.

The Web Forum will highlight the report, and offer attendees the opportunity to hear from professionals doing lead prevention and remediation work on the ground, followed by a Q&A session. This event is recommended for professionals in public health, advocacy, education, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, hospitals, health systems, housing, and lead prevention groups. Register for the event [online](#).

### New Safe Sleep Course Posted to KansasTRAIN



The Kansas Infant Death & SIDS Network (KIDS) in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Child Care Program have created a new online course module for KansasTRAIN at <https://www.train.org/ks/>. Safe Slumber: Creating a Safe Sleep Environment, Course ID# 1073036, is a one hour course designed primarily for child care providers, but all professions that work with infants are encouraged to enroll in this course. At the conclusion of the education opportunity, learners will be able to define Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), address statistics of SIDS/SUID and identify how to create a safe sleep environment. The course includes several videos, pre-post assessment, evaluation and a certificate. New KansasTRAIN navigation information is available [here](#).

### Training: Introduction to Billing and Business Processes for Local Kansas Health Departments



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment & the Center for Public Health Initiatives at Wichita State posted a two-part training for both new and experienced administrators, billers, and office managers. This training originally posted in PH Connections in 2016; gives a high level overview of the billing workflow utilized in departments. Focusing on organizational competencies, as part of the Foundational Public Health Services and Capabilities Model, this training provides an introduction to performance and financial management as applied to the billing process. For more information, or to access this training on KsTrain.org, search for: Introduction to Local Health Department Billing and Business Practices (Course # 1062321) or contact Aaron Davis at [aaron.davis@wichita.edu](mailto:aaron.davis@wichita.edu).



## Public Health Communication Courses Available on KansasTRAIN

**Kansas TRAIN** The following public health communication courses were recently posted to KansasTRAIN at <https://www.train.org/ks/>:

- **Design Matters! Integrating Design into Public Health Communications: Two Case Studies**, Course ID# 1073432, discusses the crucial role of design in health communication and how good design can make or break a health communication campaign. In the recent Health Communications Matters Webinar Series, the presenters illustrated the role of good design in health communication and described how public health practitioners and researchers can work with designers and artists to enhance the appeal and effectiveness of their materials.
- **Raising Community Voices: The Power of Storytelling in Public Health**, Course ID# 1073425, provides participants information on how to use storytelling to advance public health goals for the communities you serve.
- **What's Your Peer Crowd? Identifying Your Audience and Health Messages That Resonate**, Course ID # 1073428, will help you use the FDA's Fresh Empire tobacco education campaign and instruct you on how this piece of information can assist you in designing and disseminating your messages.
- **Building a Public Health Literate Organization**, Course ID# 1073433, provides information from Dr. Cynthia Baur on health literacy tools and guidelines developed at the federal level by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This will be followed with a presentation by Susan Bockrath, who shares a best-practice example on how one local health department in Nebraska has taken on the challenge of implementing health literacy organizational capacity. They have been working with a variety of stakeholders in their community to achieve public health accreditation standards for health literacy.
- **Storytelling as Health Communication: Fighting Obesity and Diabetes**, Course ID# 1073431, this recorded webinar highlights the power of storytelling as a public health tool in preventing our most pervasive chronic conditions, diabetes and obesity. The panel featured community works and researchers doing work in vulnerable communities from two cutting-edge projects.

## 2018 Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases to Host National Meeting on Tick-Borne Diseases - May 5



The Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases (CEVBD) is an interdisciplinary research center at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University. The primary focus of CEVBD is to conduct research on vector-borne diseases of importance to animal and human health. Its goals also include disseminating the current knowledge through continuing education conferences. The conference will offer DVM Continuing Education credits. The CEVBD will hold its first annual national conference to provide the most up-to-date information to participants on tick-borne diseases. Renowned scientists with a high level of expertise on tick-borne diseases will be among the speakers (listed below). The conference is open to scientists, doctors, veterinarians and others having interest in learning about tick-borne diseases.

The following speakers are currently confirmed for the event:

- Dr. J. Stephen Dumler, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland
  - Dr. Christopher Paddock, MD, MPHTM, Medical Officer, Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
  - Dr. Ed Breitschwerdt, DVM, DACVIM, Professor of Internal Medicine, Vector Borne Disease Diagnostics, Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
  - Dr. Hans Coetzee, BVSc, PhD, Professor, Department Head and Interim Director of Nanotechnology Innovation Center of Kansas State (NICKS) and Institute of Computational Comparative Medicine (ICCM), Department of Anatomy and Physiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University
  - Dr. Roman Ganta, MS, PhD, Professor and Director, Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases, Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University.
- Register before March 9 for the a discounted rate of \$150. Register [online here](#) or visit the [website](#) to register. For more information, contact Dana Parker by e-mail at [dlaparker@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:dlaparker@vet.k-state.edu) or by phone at 785-532-4528.

**Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium**  
**May 10-11, 2018**  
**Embassy Suites by Hilton Kansas City/**  
**Olathe Hotel & Conference Center**

- CEUs
- Expert speakers
- Plan, prepare for outbreaks
- Networking

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Presented by  
**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
 Health & Environment

**Kansas**  
 Department of Health and Environment

Register on  
 Kansas TRAIN in  
 early 2018

## News and Resources



### Pharmacist Prescribing Authority: A Method to Increase Access to Care

There is a growing trend to [expand the scope of practice for pharmacists](#) to prescribe a variety of drugs, including nicotine replacement therapy, emergency contraception, and antidotes for opioid overdose. Several states are implementing approaches that allow pharmacists to provide certain health services to communities that need better access to care.

## Job Postings

### Geary County Health Department

- [Medical Front Office Assistant](#)
- [Registered Dietitian](#)
- [Assistant Nursing Director](#)
- [Registered Nurse](#)
- [WIC Coordinator](#)

### Harper County Health Department

- [Full Time Public Health Program Clerk](#)

### McPherson County Health Department

- [Receptionist/Clerk I](#)
- [Registered Nurse - Public Health](#)

### Pawnee County Health Department

- [Public Health Administrator](#)

### Pottawatomie County Health Department

- [Medical Secretary](#)
- [Public Health RN \(LPN considered\)](#)

### Riley County Health Department

- [Child Care Surveyor I](#)
- [Public Health Nurse - Mother & Infant Program](#)

### Sedgwick County Health Department

- [Nurse Immunization Service Coordinator](#)
- [Registered Dietician](#)
- [WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor](#)
- [Public Health Specialist](#)
- [WIC Registered Nurse](#)
- [Customer Service Representative | Division of Health](#)

### Sumner County Health Department

- [Homemaker - Part Time](#)
- [Registered Nurse I II III - Part Time](#)
- [Clerk /Receptionist](#)



Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found [here](#).

### Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[2017 KDHE News Releases](#)  
[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)  
[Kansas Environmental News](#)  
[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)  
[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)  
[Nutrition and WIC Update](#)  
[Ready Reader](#)  
[What's Happening Wednesday \(Immunization\)](#)

### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, email [phc@kdheks.gov](mailto:phc@kdheks.gov).  
 Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at  
[http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public\\_health\\_connections.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm).

Send your public health news to  
 Katie Mahuron at [katie.mahuron@ks.gov](mailto:katie.mahuron@ks.gov).